



The Ohio Hetuch



Fall 2016

Chair Comments –Stephanie Downs, OSAF Chair

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Hello Ohio SAF!

I had the privilege of representing Ohio at the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. HSD meets annually right before the annual convention, so it's a great way to get to know other chapter leadership and issues.

One of the top issues is sustaining membership. Fortunately, SAF membership has increased slightly in the past few years. However, SAF expects a shortfall in dues-paying members in upcoming years as our 50-year members enter the Golden Leadership status (they do not pay dues.) SAF is actively addressing how to recruit and retain our younger members. I would love to hear your ideas about how SAF might best attract forestry professionals.

SAF is also finalizing a Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement to ensure that our society is open and welcoming to a wide array of individuals - from ethnicity to gender to ideology and background. I brought up a discussion item from the Ohio Executive Committee: the need to reach out at the elementary school level. The forestry community should look at developing an awareness and interest in forestry at a young enough age so that young people know it is a career option. Hopefully such efforts will increase student enrollment in forestry programs, resulting in greater diversity in our future professionals.

A lot of discussion centered around education and outreach. This seems to be one of the top priorities for a lot of state societies. SAF involvement in FFA, 4-H, Envirothon, Project Learning Tree, and others is critical for engaging our youth. I thank all of you who assist with these programs to increase the awareness and interest in forestry! I know our members do a lot!

Another topic was to focus on mission-based leadership at the local level. How do we focus our efforts to meet the SAF mission? In listening to our partner societies, Ohio seems to utilize partnerships very well to meet our mission. Again, thank you all for your efforts! I was very proud to represent our state!

National staffing has changed significantly in recent years, which resulted in some issues with some of our Certified Foresters' continuing education credits. The program is currently being managed through several staff members with already full plates. Fortunately, SAF will be hiring a new staff member to manage continuing education and streamline the program. This is welcome news.

Overall, it was a very interesting and educational meeting. I look forward to sharing more with you about the Convention. Thank you for the opportunity to represent Ohio. It has been an honor serving as the Ohio SAF Chair and I look forward to assisting Casey Burdick in her chairmanship in 2017. Please mark your calendars to attend the 2017 Ohio SAF Annual Meeting on March 7-8 at OSU. It is one of our best opportunities to get to know each other and strengthen our individual and professional knowledge base.

Have a safe holiday season,
Stephanie



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Ohio's State Forester Named Fellow by Society of American Foresters -Ohio Division of Forestry

COLUMBUS, OH– Robert Boyles, Ohio's state forester, was recently named a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters (SAF), according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

"Robert's work to promote sound forestry practices throughout Ohio has been invaluable toward efforts to maintain healthy, productive forests across the nation," said ODNR Director James Zehringer. "His dedication and leadership continue to raise awareness with private woodland owners, business owners, outdoor enthusiasts, young people and leaders in government and academia about the importance our forests and woodlands hold in our daily lives."

Awardees are recognized for exemplary action and sustained leadership over many years in advancing the forestry profession at the local, state and national level. The SAF Fellow is recognized as an ambassador for the advancement of forestry and is the highest award given to SAF members by their peers.

The SAF was founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. SAF's mission is to advance sustainable management of forest resources through science, education and technology. Their mission is also to enhance the competency of its members and to establish professional excellence. SAF urges members to use their knowledge, skills and conservation ethic to ensure the continued health, integrity and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity.

Under Boyles' leadership, ODNR obtained independent review and recertification this year for all of the 21 state forests under the management of the ODNR Division of Forestry. The division received recertification to the principles and criteria of two internationally recognized organizations - the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The SFI integrates principles of environmental protection, while the FSC promotes responsible forest stewardship worldwide. All of Ohio's 21 state forests covering more than 200,000 acres are recertified.

Ohio was also recently recognized as the leading Tree City USA state in the nation for the 35th consecutive year. The Buckeye State has 241 participating cities, villages and townships that have achieved the [Tree City USA](#) designation.

Congratulations Bob!



Ohio Society of American Foresters Fellows

William F. Cowen, Jr.	1979	David M. Bergman	1987	John R. Gerlach	1995	Roger D. Weaver	2010
Ture L. Johnson	1983	Everette D. Rast	1987	William D. Ticknor III	1996	Stephanie Miller	2011
Ovid A. Alderman	1984	David A. Schatz	1987	Walter D. Smith	1999	Lee Crocker	2013
Irving I. Dickman	1984	Elmer Hershberger	1989	Emmett A. Conway	2000	Kathy Smith	2014
Donald E. Richter	1984	Howard B. Kriebel	1989	Daniel B. Houston	2002	Dave Apsley	2015
Franklin P. Newell	1985	Robert A. Nosse	1989	Mark A. Jukich	2002	Robert Boyles	2016
James H. Brown	1986	Jack Vimmerstedt	1989	Philip S. Perry	2003		
Ernest J. Gebhart	1986	David F. Berna	1990	Thomas D. Berger	2005		
William R. Lebold	1986	Robert B. Redett	1990	John E. Dorka	2006		
James T. Lenox, Jr.	1986	Dan B. Kincaid	1991	Daniel A. Yaussy	2007		
Garry F. Marcum	1986	Lawrence J. Ehlers	1994	Peter R. Woyar	2008		
Robert A. Nelson	1986	David L. Embree	1994	Ronald G. Abraham	2009		

The College Curriculum

Hocking College SAF Chapter

-Katie Reiderman (Sec/Treasurer), Elliot Smith (Vice President), and Jacob Nicholson (President)

Hocking College may be a small school in the town of Nelsonville in southeastern Ohio, but our SAF student chapter has big plans this year. In May 2017 we plan to travel westward to experience Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park and Redwoods National Park in California. What started as just a farfetched idea between the student chapter officers, Jacob, Elliot, , and Katie is becoming reality with the thoughtful guidance and enthusiasm of our professors Jim and Stephanie Downs. The colossal tree seekers will be made up of the 2017 and 2018 graduates of the Forest Management program at Hocking College, along with Jim, Stephanie, Mike Kessler and Dale Hatfield. The 15 day trip will cover a wide variety of sights and locations of the western United States.

Amidst the trip planning and fall semester classes at Hocking College, a small group of our students, along with Jim and Stephanie, got to experience the SAF National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin the first week of November. The convention offered our students the opportunity to network with professionals and organizations. At the National Student Congress meeting on November 3, students from all over the country got the chance to learn job-seeking skills from professionals in the field. Because the location of the convention was so close, we were able to visit Aldo Leopold's shack near Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he wrote *A Sand County Almanac*. This was an incredible opportunity and a great learning experience for all of us. Altogether, the convention week was an incredible experience that anybody working in the forestry industry should strive to attend someday.

Like us on Facebook and follow our adventures at <https://www.facebook.com/hockingcollegeforestryclub>



Hocking College SAF Chapter Members
Photo courtesy Hocking College SAF

The Ohio State Forestry Forum

-Tyler Morlock, Vice President

The mission of The Forestry Forum at the Ohio State University is; “dedicated to providing students with the experience, knowledge, and networking needed to succeed in the forestry industry”. Not only are we providing what our mission states, but excelling at it.

What has been a small group of about five consistent members for several years has now significantly increased. We have nearly tripled meeting attendees with new faces coming in the door every gathering. In addition to new members, we are bringing in new events and guest speakers. Some new things we have brought to the table this year include the participation in a forestry competition against West Virginia University, assisting members with using USA Jobs to improve their job-seeking skills, and inviting more guest speakers. Some of this past year's special guests included Dr. Stephen Matthews (USDA Forest Service and professor at Ohio State) and Eric Roush (forester with Glatfelter.) We are arranging for a visit by a representative from Pennsylvania's DCNR Bureau of Forestry in the spring.

We continue the tradition of the annual Christmas tree sale, offer grant opportunities, and assist with hosting the Ohio SAF meeting at OSU. The OSU Forestry Forum will be participating in the lumberjack demonstration at the Ice Festival in Dowagiac Michigan and the Midwestern Conclave in Iowa this year.

At the Ohio State University, our small forestry forum is not only growing, but becoming an impactful club in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Like us on Facebook and see what we're doing at <https://www.facebook.com/Forestry-Forum-at-OSU-616217195133970/>



First Place OSU Forestry Forum at the Lumberjack
Bluegrassin Jamboree in Saulsville, West Virginia
Photo courtesy Forestry Forum Facebook Page

Forest Science

A New Problem for American Beech: Beech Leaf Disease

-Leila Pinchot, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

In 2012 a newly discovered disease popped up in Ohio: beech leaf disease (BLD). While beech *bark* disease affects the bark and cambium of beech trees, BLD causes the shriveling of leaves on the affected tree. Striping or banding on leaves, caused by darkening between the leaf veins, is an early indicator of this disease, which is known to affect only American and European beech trees. BLD can kill seedlings and saplings, but it is not known, at this point, if it can kill mature trees. Unfortunately for American beech, the wildlife who use it, and those of us who admire it, BLD appears to spread rapidly and causes symptoms in most, if not all, beech trees in affected areas.



Thus far this disease has been identified in Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Portage, and Trumbull Counties, as well as Crawford County, PA. An interagency team is currently working to understand BLD, including partners in Ohio: ODNR, Lake County Metroparks, Cleveland Metroparks, Holden Arboretum, and USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station.

To address some questions about BLD in Ohio, I reached out to Tom Macy, ODNR Forest Health Program Administrator. Here are his answers to my questions:

Q. What is ODNR doing to address BLD?

A. *ODNR Division of Forestry has developed a “Pest Alert” educational flyer [url provided below] along with Lake County Metroparks to help raise awareness of the issue and solicit reports of BLD from the public. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Forestry has assisted with field examinations of affected trees in northeastern Ohio as well as helping to coordinate efforts of all involved governmental and non-governmental partners.*

Q. Can you test for BLD?

A. *There have been several diagnostic examinations done on symptomatic plant material by various laboratories and plant pathologists, but no definitive cause of the disease has yet been identified. Additional testing will be done in 2017.*

Q. The Forest Pest Alert states that it can kill seedlings. Has BLD been found to kill mature trees, either directly, or by weakening the tree sufficiently to allow secondary pathogens to kill it?

A. *It appears that sapling-sized American beech trees have been killed by BLD. I personally cannot say that I have observed overstory trees killed by BLD, however, some appear to be significantly impacted. It is too early to say exactly how BLD will impact larger trees and whether or not it can weaken them sufficiently to lead to tree mortality.*

Q. What should landowners do if their beech trees exhibit symptoms described in the Forest Pest Alert?

A. *If landowners think they have found trees impacted with BLD, we are asking that they report them to the ODNR Division of Forestry’s Forest Health Program at 614-265-6705 or thomas.macy@dnr.state.oh.us. We are not recommending any other action at this time.*

Q. Is there any other information on BLD you think foresters and landowners should be aware of?

A. *A grant proposal to the U.S. Forest Service to fund further examination of this issue has been submitted by the Cleveland Metroparks in cooperation with partner organizations. If funded, the project will attempt to answer many questions about BLD such as its extent, the speed of symptom progression, and testing to help determine a causal agent. Whether or not the grant is funded, work will continue on this important forest health issue.*

You can find information about BLD in ODNR’s Forest Pest Alert:

<http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/portals/forestry/pdfs/BLDAAlert.pdf>

Urban Corner



Ohio Hosts Mock Deployment

-USDA Forest Service and Ohio Division of Forestry

Natural disasters cause significant damage each year to our urban forests, and the resulting assessment and cleanup responsibilities are a challenge for many communities. State Forestry Agencies and the U.S. Forest Service have been developing resources to provide assistance to communities after disasters.

The Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) initiative was developed by the states and U.S. Forest Service in the Southeastern U.S. in 2007 following a series of devastating hurricanes. The initiative involves recruiting, training, and deploying professional Urban Foresters and Arborists (required to have specific certification and experience) to assess urban tree storm damage using arboriculture and FEMA standards. The goals of UFST assessments are to assist communities in need, provide increased public safety, reduce loss of the urban tree canopy, document disaster recovery needs and costs for possible FEMA reimbursement, and provide for a more efficient recovery.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, are working with an advisory committee and the States to introduce this technique in the Northeast Area (NA). 11 training sessions have been conducted in the NA States, over 250 people have gone through the basic Task Specialist training and 9 of those have attended a more advanced Team Leader training. The Southeastern States have over 150 Task Specialists and 36 Team Leaders.

The Ohio Division of Forestry hosted a trial deployment in Toledo on October 12-13, 2016. 28 Urban foresters and trainers came from Ohio and several Northeast Area states. The Lucas County Emergency Management Agency opened their very well-equipped facility for training review and briefings. Field crews practiced tree assessment protocol and data collection along streets in Toledo's historic Old West End neighborhood. Participants were especially excited about the new data collection software. It is very simple to use and it's live for instant access by the community.

Visit the USFS Strike Team Website: www.ufst.org



Urban Foresters and trainers from Ohio and 5 other states review Strike Team tree assessment process. Photo courtesy W. Van Buren ODOF

Iron Furnace Chapter News

-Phil Perry

The Iron Furnace Chapter of OSAF met at the Ohio State University Extension Office near Jackson on August 31, 2016. It was attended by 21 people including 6 Hocking College forestry students that Jim Downs persuaded to come. Walt Smith was our MC for the night.

Gary Vollrath was the speaker and his excellent talk was entitled "That Was Then, This is Now." Gary talked about his 38 years of forestry in Ohio as a Service Forester with the Division of Forestry and as a Consulting Forester. He also shared stories and pictures of his many fire details to many states. He also talked about the low tech equipment he started out with compared with the experience of his first computer.

Lee Crocker, District 9 Council Representative, updated us on the last National SAF Council meeting. The discussion concerned the budget and poor condition of the Pinchot building, our National headquarters.

After the presentations we had pizza for dinner arranged by Dave Apsley. We had time to socialize with each other. This included us old foresters trying to impress the young forestry students with our forestry expertise. Our November gathering was a dinner at the Lake Hope Lodge's Log Cabin Room with our spouses.



Left: OSU Forestry Forum practice for the Lumberjack & Bluegrass Festival in Saulsville, West Virginia. **Right:** Competition Day!
Photos courtesy Forestry Forum Facebook Page



Hocking Forestry Club places Hocking's Tree Farm sign in April.
Photos courtesy Hocking Forestry Club Facebook Page



2016 Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp.
Photo courtesy OFWCC Facebook Page



Ohio fire crew in N. Carolina. OSAF members on recent fire deployments included Jared Craig, Greg Smith, Tom Macy, & Tom Shuman. Photo courtesy T. Shuman, Ohio DOF



Thank you from North Carolina school children for Ohio fire crew.
Photo courtesy T. Shuman, Ohio DOF

Jeremy Scherf Named 2016 Inspector of the Year

-Edited from American Forest Foundation Press Release

Earlier this year, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) awarded the Wesley R. Meier National Outstanding Inspector of the Year Award to Jeremy Scherf from Ohio at the 2016 National Leadership Conference's 75th anniversary celebration of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

The National Outstanding Inspector of the Year Award is given annually to individuals who volunteer their time with ATFS and perform considerable outreach efforts to educate family landowners and the public on the benefits of sustainable forestry. The honored individual is selected from four regional winners.

Awardees are known for their passion for the job and willingness to lend a hand to landowners whenever needed. 2016's honoree, Jeremy, is truly passionate about volunteering and helping Tree Farmers across his region of Ohio. In his career, he has written more than 270 forest management plans covering more than 27,000 acres, while also inspecting more than 20 Tree Farms each year.

Jeremy is a founding member of the Barnesville Area Reforestation Committee, which is part of a larger regional effort to plant and cultivate hardwood trees on reclaimed coal-mined land. Jeremy is also co-director of the Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp, a week-long resident camp that annually attracts 100 high school students who spend the week learning about the outdoors.



Photo courtesy Seattle Photo Booths

Congratulations to Jeremy and the Ohio State Tree Farm Committee on a job well done.

Mark Your Calendars!

Ohio SAF Winter Meeting

March 7-8, 2017

The Ohio State University, Columbus

Watch your mailboxes for details soon.

Keep up with OSAF and other Forestry events and news at our website:

www.safohio.org

Happy Holidays!



Adam Beichler
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Upcoming Events

Ohio Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting

March 7 & 8, 2017

Ag Administration Building, Ohio State University
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210

Joint Conference

WV Mine Drainage Task Force, American Society for Mining & Reclamation,
Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

April 9-13, 2017
Morgantown, WV
<https://wvmdtaskforce.com>

CFE S
Available!

Notice

OSAF Has a New Web Address: www.safohio.org